

Applicants: Andreas METELSKI et al.

Serial No.: 09/423,916

Preliminary Amendment

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THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--;

At page 20, line 1, please delete "Patent Claims" and insert --What is claimed is:--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-13 and add the following new claims 14-45:

--14. A microscope stand comprising a plurality of support members, at least one of said plurality of support members including first and second concentric tubes formed of first and second materials, respectively, said first and second materials having substantially different moduli of elasticity and contributing to the vertical section modulus of said stand.

15. The microscope stand according to claim 14, wherein one of said first and second materials is fiber-reinforced plastic, and another of said first and second materials is metal with a comparatively low modulus of elasticity relative to that of said one of said first and second materials.

16. The microscope stand according to claim 15, wherein said fiber-reinforced plastic includes thermoplastic.

17. The microscope stand according to claim 15, wherein said fiber-reinforced plastic includes duroplastic.

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18. The microscope stand according to claim 15, wherein said fiber-reinforced plastic includes thermosetting plastic.

19. The microscope stand according to claim 15, wherein said fiber-reinforced plastic includes carbon fibers.

20. The microscope stand according to claim 15, wherein said fiber-reinforced plastic includes aramid fibers.

21. The microscope stand according to claim 15, wherein said fiber-reinforced plastic includes glass fibers.

22. The microscope stand according to claim 15, wherein said fiber-reinforced plastic includes mineral fibers.

23. The microscope stand according to claim 15, wherein said fiber-reinforced plastic includes polyamide fibers.

24. The microscope stand according to claim 15, wherein said metal is aluminum.

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25. The microscope stand according to claim 15, characterized in that said fibers are oriented by at least one winding method chosen from the group of winding methods consisting of: filament winding, braided tube winding, cloth and non-woven fabric winding.

26. The microscope stand according to claim 25, wherein said fibers are oriented unidirectionally.

27. The microscope stand according to claim 25, wherein said fibers are oriented at zero angle relative to a longitudinal axis of said support member.

28. The microscope stand according to claim 14, wherein said first material and said second material are rigidly connected to each other.

29. The microscope stand according to claim 28, wherein said first material and said second material are rigidly connected to each other by cementing.

30. The microscope stand according to claim 28, wherein said first material and said second material are rigidly connected to each other so that they are thrust-elastically damped.

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31. The microscope stand according to claim 15, further including at least one interface for providing a stress-free connection between adjacent parts of said stand.

32. The microscope stand according to claim 31, wherein said at least one interface divides at least one of said plurality of support members into a pair of support member segments.

33. The microscope stand according to claim 32, wherein said at least one support member divided by said interface is said at least one support member including first and second concentric tubes.

34. The microscope stand according to claim 31, wherein said at least one interface is metallic.

35. The microscope stand according to claim 31, wherein a damping layer is provided at said at least one interface.

36. The microscope stand according to claim 35, wherein said damping layer includes a mixed-cell foam of an elastomeric material.

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37. The microscope stand according to claim 14, further comprising a base having a plurality of wheels, wherein a damping layer is provided between said base and each of said plurality of wheels.

38. The microscope stand according to claim 14, further comprising a base having a plurality of positioning feet.

39. The microscope stand according to claim 38, wherein a damping layer is provided between said positioning feet and the floor on which said microscope stand resides.

40. The microscope stand according to claim 14, further comprising a base including a lower plate and an upper plate, wherein said lower plate and said upper plate are separated by a honeycomb structure cemented in place.

41. The microscope stand according to claim 40, wherein said lower and upper plates are rigidly fastened together at at least one point.

42. The microscope stand according to claim 38, further comprising a positioning means for simultaneously lowering said plurality of feet.

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43. The microscope stand according to claim 42, wherein each of said plurality of feet is threadably adjustable relative to said base, and said positioning means comprises a plurality of gear wheels associated one with each of said plurality of feet to rotate therewith, a positioning chain arranged to operatively engage said plurality of gear wheels, and an eccentric mechanism for driving said chain.

*cont*

44. The microscope stand according to claim 14, wherein said at least one support member is prestressed in its axial direction.

45. The microscope stand according to claim 44, wherein said prestressing is produced by a central tensioning element which is stressed in tension with respect to said at least one support member.--

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REMARKS

The present application was translated from German to English. The purpose of this amendment is to amend the claims to meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, and to add appropriate headings to the specification text. A check for payment of additional claim fees accompanies this Preliminary Amendment.